

Fast Facts on California's International Economy

Compiled by: Assembly Committee on Jobs, Economic Development and the Economy

California is the ninth largest economy in the world with a 2011 state GDP of \$1.96 trillion.¹ Exports out of California were valued at \$162 billion in 2012 and represented 10.5% of total U.S. exports.² Imports into California were valued at \$376 billion in 2012 and represented 16.5% of total U.S. imports.³

California and World Markets

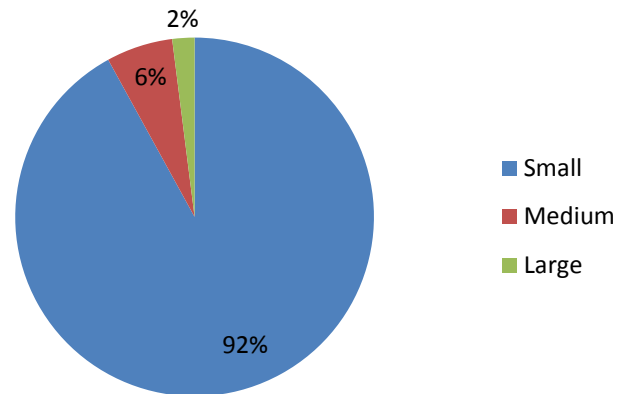
- In 2011, California's GDP totaled \$1.96 trillion.⁴
- California exported \$162 billion in products in 2012. This is up from 2011 (\$159 billion).⁵
- California's largest export market is Mexico, where the value of exports totaled \$26 billion in 2012. After Mexico, California's top export markets in 2012 were: Canada (\$17.3 billion); China (\$14 billion); Japan (\$13 billion); South Korea (\$8.2 billion); Hong Kong (\$7.8 billion); Taiwan (\$6.3 billion); Germany (\$5 billion); Netherlands (\$4.6 billion); and the United Kingdom (\$4.3 billion).⁶
- California's top five exports in 2012 were: Computer & Electronic Products (\$44.6 billion); Transportation Equipment (\$16 billion); Machinery, Except Electrical (\$14.9 billion); Miscellaneous Manufactured Commodities (\$13.9 billion); and Chemicals (\$12.8 billion).⁷
- California exported \$26 billion in products to Mexico in 2012. The top five exports to Mexico were: Computer and Electronic Products (\$8.3 billion); Transportation Equipment (\$2.4 billion); Machinery, except Electrical (\$2 billion); Petroleum and Coal Products (\$1.8 billion); and Chemicals (\$1.5 billion).⁸
- California's second largest export market is Canada, with exports totaling \$17.3 billion in 2012. The top five exports to Canada were: Computer & Electronic Products (\$5.4 billion); Agricultural Products (\$2.4 billion); Food Manufactures (\$1.2 billion); Transportation Equipment (\$975 million); and Machinery, Except Electrical (\$939 million).⁹
- In 2012, California exported \$14 billion in products to China. The top five exports to China were: Computer and Electronic Products (\$3.9 billion); Waste and Scrap (\$2.4 billion); Machinery, except Electrical (\$1.4 billion); Transportation and Equipment (\$1.39 billion); and Agricultural Products (\$1.1 billion).¹⁰
- In 2012, California imported \$376 billion in products. California's top five imports in 2012 were: Computer and Electronic Products (\$112 billion); Transportation Equipment (\$60 billion); Oil & Gas (\$32 billion); Miscellaneous Manufactured Commodities (\$19.4 billion); and Apparel Manufacturing Products (\$18.8 billion).¹¹
- China is the largest source of imports into California. The 2012 value of Chinese imports was \$128 billion. China is followed by Japan (\$41.5 billion); Mexico (\$36 billion); Canada (\$25.8 billion); and South Korea (\$12.3 billion). Other major sources of import into California include: Germany (\$12 billion); Taiwan (\$11.2 billion); Malaysia (\$10 billion); and Saudi Arabia (\$8.5 billion).¹²

Trade and Jobs

- There were 849,316 companies in California in 2011.¹³ Of those companies a total of 75,028 (9%) exported goods from California, 72,039 (96%) were small and medium-sized companies with fewer than 500 employees.¹⁴

- Small and medium-sized companies generated 44.2% of California's total exports of merchandise in 2011.¹⁵
- Across the U.S. small and medium-sized companies contributed to 33.7% of goods exports and 97.8% of all exports in 2010.¹⁶
- Of the small and medium-sized U.S. companies that do export, 59% export to only one country.¹⁷
- This trend is also evident on the import side, with 62% of small and medium-sized companies importing goods from only one country.¹⁸

Percent of Exporters by Firm Size, 2010



California's Trade Infrastructure

- In January 2010, President Barack Obama announced the National Export Initiative (NEI) which proposes to double the country's total exports by the end of 2014. The initiative also calls for improvements to the U.S.'s transportation and supply chain infrastructure to enable exporters to transport their goods to ports quickly and inexpensively.¹⁹ Most recent data suggests that U.S. exports are progressing. In 2012, U.S. exports hit an all-time record of \$2.2 trillion, a 40% increase from 2009, supporting 9.8 million U.S. jobs.²⁰⁻²¹ Additionally, in 2012, California's export shipments of merchandise totaled \$162 billion, a 35% increase from 2009.²²
- The Port of Los Angeles continues to hold the top rank in terms of two-way trade in 2011 (valued at \$273.6 billion). It is followed by JFK International Airport (\$192.3 billion) and the Port of Houston (\$168.8 billion).²³ Data on California's other major ports are as follows: Long Beach (\$94.7 billion, ranked 9th); LAX (\$84.6 billion, ranked 12th); San Francisco International Airport (\$50.5 billion, ranked 21st); Port of Oakland (\$45.8 billion, ranked 24th); Otay Mesa Station (\$34.2 billion, ranked 30th).²⁴
- In terms of container activity, the Los Angeles-Long Beach container port ranked 8th globally, behind Shanghai, China; Singapore, The Republic of Singapore; Hong Kong, China; Shenzhen, China; Busan, South Korea; Ningbo, China; and Guangzhou, China.²⁵
- In 2011, ports in Northern California recorded a 7.1% increase in tonnage, accounting for nearly 37 million short tons (one short ton is equivalent to 2,000 pounds). Southern California also experienced a slight increase in tonnage from 59.3% to 59.9%.²⁶
- Border crossing delays between the California-Mexico border accounted for an estimated output loss of \$3.9 billion and a 30,000 national job loss due to reduced output in 2008. In California, losses were estimated at \$3.2 billion and a 25,000 job loss.²⁷
- San Diego-Imperial counties accounted for an estimated output loss of \$2.5 billion and a 23,000 job loss.²⁸
- Research shows that if border delays continue to grow, economic losses will continue to increase significantly by 2017. It is estimated that total economic impacts to San Diego County would increase by 45%, reaching a \$2.53 billion total output loss and more than 24,000 jobs would be lost. The output loss in Imperial County is estimated to increase by 44% with total output loss reaching \$378 million and 4,638 jobs would be lost. Statewide, the total output loss is expected to double while job loss is expected to increase by 10%.²⁹

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- ³ <http://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/statistics/state/data/imports/ca.html>; United States Census Bureau, "State Imports for California," last revised March 15, 2013, accessed April 22, 2013
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- ⁶ <http://tse.export.gov/TSE/MapDisplay.aspx>; International Trade Administration, "2012 NAICS Total All Merchandise Exports from California," accessed April 23, 2013
- ⁷ <http://tse.export.gov/TSE/ChartDisplay.aspx>; International Trade Administration, "2012 NAICS Total All Merchandise Exports from California to the World," accessed April 23, 2013
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- ¹³ <http://censtats.census.gov/cgi-bin/cbpnaic/cbpsect.pl>; United States Census Bureau, "2011 County Business Patterns (NAICS): California," accessed May 6, 2013
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- ¹⁸ <http://www.trade.gov/mas/ian/smeoutlook/index.asp>; International Trade Administration, "Small & Medium-Sized Exporting Companies: Statistical Overview, 2010," last revised April 16, 2012, accessed April 24, 2013
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